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Among the many important and desirable results represented as arising from Mr. Bruce's own determination to live at home among his people, the following are recorded :

"Sensible of the defective husbandry on his property, Mr. Bruce resolved to afford an opportunity of improvement to every one of his tenants—he accordingly appropriated ten acres of excellent land for the purpose of a *model* farm, attached to the schools, in which every description of suitable crop was neatly and judiciously cultivated by the sons of his tenantry who attended the school. The general instructions were issued either by Mr. Bruce himself, or his steward, and Edwards saw that these orders were implicitly executed. This farm soon became perfect in every way—with its little offices—cows—pigs—and two asses, which drew a light drilling plough, and small Scotch carts, it presented a very desirable model to the small holders around.

"The hours for school instruction, and occupation were alternate—in summer, from six to eight, work—then breakfast—afterwards from half past eight to twelve, school—then dinner, (provided as well as the morning meal, from the produce of their field,) after dinner, school for an hour—then work until six, when the scholars were dismissed for their suppers and beds at home. In winter they breakfasted at their own homes—school from eight to ten—afterwards work, if dry, until twelve—then dinner, and an hour in school—then work again until dark. Thus the labours of the field were a wholesome and pleasing mode of bodily exercise; and the school a channel of agreeable relaxation.

"In the school-room, the boys were taught reading, writing, and arithmetic, and according to their ages and capacities, geometry, mensuration, surveying, plan drawing, agricultural chemistry, and a little botany. They were made to calculate the quantities of seed, and the probable value and produce of crops, and and their best rotations, and learned the natures and properties of manure, as suited to different soils.

"In the field, the whole routine of draining, ploughing, digging, trenching, planting, weeding, hoeing, reaping, and harvesting, &c. was practically taught. And on wet days the lathe and carpenter's tools amused and employed them in the workshop, where they learned how to make implements of husbandry. Idlers, and irregular attendants were dismissed, and consequently deprived of their landlord's good opinion, while the assiduous and improving had the prospective hope of obtaining farms from him, when they should become qualified to cultivate them to advantage. One fact deserves to be here noticed, as it shows the importance of this kind of education, namely, that if any occasional pettishness, or childish jealousy of preference ever appeared among the scholars, it was totally devoid of party feeling; some of them were of different churches, yet in no case whatever was there even a word expressed or implied on any side that could wound religious feeling, or momentarily interrupt the mutual cordiality which so uniformly and so happily prevailed; their unexceptionable conduct in most instances, thanks to the indefatigable Edwards, was even in itself alone, an ample recompence to their benefactors for the care and expense, and responsibility incurred on their account; in scarcely any case was corpo-

ral punishment inflicted—the dread of public disgrace in graver matters, and the infliction of fines in trifling ones, were found to be sufficient instruments of punishment and preventives of impropriety.

"It may appear difficult to have trained boys and girls—many of them very young too, to habits of systematic occupation, yet Edwards and his helpmate contrived to do so; combining talent with assiduity, authority with mildness, and zeal with patience, they perseveringly watched over all the interests of the school, and strange to tell, made the youngest as well as the oldest pupils work in the field, and apply in school, as cheerfully and earnestly, as if they had been able to foresee all the remote effects of industrious and attentive habits.—One of the methods was to divide the business of the farm into several departments of labour, to open a regular account for each, and to *debit* or *credit* each boy with *merit* tickets of fixed and positive value—the pupils lost or gained these rewards, in proportion to their industry or idleness, and took rank in the classes accordingly, and it was invariably found that the dread on one side of *losing caste*, of being placed perhaps in the *fag* or dunce's division, or of being ill received *at home*, (the books being always open for parental inspection,) and on the other, anxiety to be raised to the highest and most advanced classes, were sufficient motives to exertion. The consequence of this and similar arrangements, was great solicitude among the older boys especially, to establish characters for good conduct at school.

"Nor were the advantages of this agricultural school confined merely to the boys who attended it—the girls were in turn taught to *milk the cows*, to keep the dairy utensils in order, to dress dinner for themselves and the boys, (for the girls who thus attended in rotation had their dinner too,) to wash, to make and mend clothes, to brew, and to bake—and they too had their garden, and their *bees* which being lodged in a house of peculiar construction, multiplied exceedingly. Pleasurably did they pass the day in the varied employments of school, and garden, and household duties, and every hour appeared but too short for its appropriate employment. Thus did both sexes of Mr. Bruce's tenantry begin to acquire knowledge suited to the state of life in which they were destined to act—happy in themselves and a blessing to their friends and to society. In the school-room or the field every favourable moment for making good and useful impressions, was seized on and turned to account, and a judicious division of time and labour, regulated by seasons and weather, facilitated the teacher's task, and aided the children's progress.

"To stimulate his tenantry to the improvement of their farms, and the cleanliness and even embellishment of their cottages, Mr. Bruce had, two years before this time, proposed annual premiums, which after a very careful and rigid inspection at midsummer, were distributed according to a fixed scale, among those whose houses, fields, gardens, orchards, and cattle, were in the best condition—there was at the same time a minute enquiry into the moral state of each competitor's family, with a well understood condition that no candidate whose children were of a proper age to receive benefit from the schools provided for them, should, under any pretences, be excused from

neglecting to avail themselves of the advantages which those seminaries afforded."

Perhaps all this will be scoffed at as the visionary schemes of one not himself possessed of an estate, and ignorant of the habits and feelings of landed proprietors, or of the requirements which may reasonably be expected of them. We confess we are not ourselves particularly favourable to those liberal distributions of other men's time and property, which we sometimes find couched under the guise of philanthropic advice to the rich; but yet we do think that every estate man has a solemn and important duty to perform to society, which is in Ireland often horribly and unpardonably neglected. Providence, it is clear, ordained no man to pass through life without benefiting his fellow men in some way or other, each in his appropriate station and sphere. We shall all have one day to render an account of the deeds done in the body, and those who have nothing to plead but a careless round of amusements, or of frivolous or listless idleness, will, we fear, find it difficult to make their way to Abraham's bosom. But even independently of those future interests which are now depending on ourselves, a man will be much happier and more respectable here, and in the present life, by the due performance of all the duties which his station in society demands of him; and if he be a proprietor of land, assuredly the welfare of his tenantry, both physical and moral, has a natural and powerful claim upon his care and attention. King James the First, who was so wise that some of his courtiers called him Solomon, while others of them were so witty that they added, yea, even Solomon the Son of David, had a saying that gentlemen resident on their estates were like ships in port, their value and magnitude were felt and acknowledged; but when at a distance, in town or city, as their size seemed insignificant, so their worth and importance were not duly estimated. We did not find this in Mr. Chambers.

#### NOTICES OF BOOKS.

*A Sermon preached in St. Mary's Church on Sunday, 16th May, in aid of the Funds of the Masonic Female Orphan School. By James Kennedy, D.D.F. T. C.D.—Dublin, Milliken.*

THE very learned and amiable author of this sermon informs us, in a brief preliminary advertisement, that his pages are presented to the public under the impression that a misconception has gone abroad with respect to his views on certain points connected with legislation, and more particularly that of his country. What the nature of this misconception may have been we do not pretend to know, but certainly the sermon itself, which we have read with attention and pleasure, cannot afford to even the most hypercritical examiner any reasonable grounds for such a censure as he seems to point to. Sometimes, indeed, he bears a little hard upon those who, misled by the gloomy adumbrations of a misnamed science, and spoiled by philosophy and vain deceit after the rudiments of the world, seek to be wiser than the source of all wisdom, and to teach us rules whereby we may crush the best affections of human nature and evade the appointed end of our being, but thus far Dr. Kennedy has us and every honest man with him, and farther he does not appear to us to have gone.